

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A support structure for supporting a rear portion of a patient
2 transport cart, comprising:
3 a main body assembly comprising at least one vertical tubular member
4 and having a top, bottom, and middle section;
5 a wheel assembly comprising at least one wheel, the wheel assembly
6 attached to the bottom of the main body assembly by a wheel attaching
7 means, wherein the at least one wheel is oriented to rotate about a horizontal
8 axis while supporting the main body assembly; and
9 an attaching means for attaching the main body assembly to a member
10 of the patient transport cart proximate to the rear portion of the patient
11 transport cart.

- 1 2. The support structure of claim 1, wherein the support structure is
2 removably attachable by the main body attaching means.

- 1 3. The support structure of claim 2, wherein the main body
2 attaching means comprises at least one support member having first and
3 second ends, the support member being attached to the main body assembly
4 at the first end and having a mating portion at the second end, wherein said
5 mating portion is adapted to be inserted into a receiving means attached to
6 the member of the patient transport cart and be removably secured therein by
7 a securing means of the mating portion.

1 4. The support structure of claim 3, wherein the main body
2 attaching means comprises two diagonal support members each having the a
3 mating portion and being attached to the main body assembly at the middle
4 section.

1 5. The support structure of claim 3, wherein the securing means of
2 the mating portion includes a spring loaded retractable button.

1 6. The support structure of claim 3, wherein the securing means of
2 the mating portion includes a removable pin.

1 7. The support structure of claim 2, wherein the main body
2 attaching means comprises at least one support member having first and
3 second ends, the support member being attached to the main body assembly
4 at the first end and having clamping means at the second end, wherein said
5 clamping means are adapted to clamp on to the member of the patient
6 transport cart and be removably secured thereto.

1 8. The support structure of claim 1, wherein the main body
2 assembly comprises an upper member and a lower member, said upper and
3 lower members telescopingly cooperating under control of a height
4 adjustment means.

1 9. The support structure of claim 8, wherein the height adjustment
2 means comprises a knob connected to a threaded shaft adapted to thread
3 through an interior of the upper member and apply force to the lower member,
4 wherein turning the knob threads the threaded shaft through the interior of the
5 upper member and applies the force to the lower member to thereby adjust a
6 height of the support structure.

1 10. The support structure of claim 9, wherein the height adjustment
2 means further comprises a crank handle attached to the knob.

1 11. The support structure of claim 8, wherein the height adjustment
2 means comprises a ratcheting type height adjustment.

1 12. The support structure of claim 1, wherein the wheel assembly
2 comprises two wheels attached to each other via a common member, the
3 common member being attached to the bottom of the main body assembly.

1 13. The support structure of claim 1, wherein the wheel assembly is
2 rotatably connected to the bottom of the main body assembly through a swivel
3 pin, such that the wheel assembly rotates about a vertical axis.

1 14. The support structure of claim 1, wherein the main body
2 attaching means comprises a hinged connection between the main body
3 assembly and the member of the patient transport cart, said hinged

4 connection oriented such that the support structure can be folded forward
5 from the vertical rear proximate position to a horizontal position adjacent to an
6 underside of the patient transport cart.

1 15. A patient transport cart having a support structure for supporting
2 a rear portion of the patient transport cart, the support structure comprising:
3 a main body assembly comprising at least one vertical tubular member
4 and having a top, bottom, and middle section;
5 a wheel assembly comprising at least one wheel, the wheel assembly
6 attached to the bottom of the main body assembly by a wheel attaching
7 means, wherein the at least one wheel is oriented to rotate about a horizontal
8 axis while supporting the main body assembly; and
9 an attaching means for attaching the main body assembly to a member
10 of the patient transport cart proximate to the rear portion of the patient
11 transport cart.

1 16. The support structure of claim 15, wherein the support structure
2 is removably attachable by the main body attaching means.

1 17. The support structure of claim 16, wherein the main body
2 attaching means comprises at least one support member having first and
3 second ends, the support member being attached to the main body assembly
4 at the first end and having a mating portion at the second end, wherein said
5 mating portion is adapted to be inserted into a receiving means attached to

6 the member of the patient transport cart and be removably secured therein by
7 a securing means of the mating portion.

1 18. The support structure of claim 15, wherein the main body
2 attaching means comprises a hinged connection between the main body
3 assembly and the member of the patient transport cart, said hinged
4 connection oriented such that the support structure can be folded forward
5 from the vertical rear proximate position to a horizontal position adjacent to an
6 underside of the patient transport cart.

1 19. The support structure of claim 15, wherein the main body
2 assembly comprises an upper member and a lower member, said upper and
3 lower members telescopically cooperating under control of a height
4 adjustment means.

1 20. The support structure of claim 19, wherein the height adjustment
2 means comprises a knob connected to a threaded shaft adapted to thread
3 through an interior of the upper member and apply force to the lower member,
4 wherein turning the knob threads the threaded shaft through the interior of the
5 upper member and applies the force to the lower member to thereby adjust a
6 height of the support structure.